

# Robert G. Ousterhout, History of Art

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DEATHS

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*Bob Ousterhout*

Robert G. “Bob” Ousterhout, an emeritus professor in the history of art in the School of Arts and Sciences, died on April 23. He was 73.

Dr. Ousterhout received his BA from the University of Oregon, his MA from the University of Cincinnati, and his PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He taught in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois from 1983 to 2006, and at the University of Pennsylvania from 2006 to 2017. A recognized specialist in Byzantine architecture, he researched the documentation and interpretation of the architectural heritage of the eastern Mediterranean, particularly the Byzantine architecture, monumental art, and urbanism in Constantinople and Cappadocia.

Upon joining the faculty at Penn in 2006, he supervised and mentored over twenty PhD students at Penn and beyond, organized exhibitions at the Penn Museum, directed the center for ancient studies, and was graduate chair of the history of art and the art & archaeology of the Mediterranean world departments. As a co-director of the Cappadocia in Context summer program in Turkey from 2011 to 2022, Dr. Ousterhout trained generations of budding Byzantinists from around the world. Dr. Ousterhout wrote numerous books, covering subjects ranging from architecture in Istanbul to ancient Byzantine settlements. For his book *Eastern Medieval Architecture: The Building Traditions of Byzantium and Neighboring Lands* (2019), he received the 2021 Haskins Medal of the Medieval Academy of America.

At Illinois, he was honored as a University Scholar, an Outstanding Faculty Member in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and an associate at the Institute of Advanced Study. He has also held Fulbright and Dumbarton Oaks fellowships, and served as a senior fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Museum. He served as president of U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies and the Byzantine Studies Association of North America.

He is survived by his husband, C. Brian Rose; his sister, Jean; and his brothers Neil and Doug.

A memorial service will take place on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the Penn Museum.

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